The

THOREAU SOCIETY

BULLETIN

The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an informal gathering of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Walter Harding, State University College, Genesso, New York, president, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president. Membership $2.00 a year; life membership $25.00.

IF THIS PARAGRAPH IS CHECKED IN RED, YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE. RENEWAL, $2.00. LIFE MEMBERSHIP, $25.00. DUES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, WALTER HARDING, STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GENESEO, NEW YORK

BULLETIN EIGHTY-SEVEN SPRING, 1964

THE 1964 ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The 1964 annual meeting of the Thoreau Society will be held in the First Parish Church of Concord at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 11. Speaker of the Day will be William Stuart Nelson, Vice President of Howard University, who will talk on Thoreau and the struggle for integration today. Walter Harding will deliver the presidential address on "Thoreau at Walden Pond," a chapter from his forthcoming biography of Thoreau.

Luncheon for a limited number of people will be served at noon. Those wishing to make reservations should write in advance to Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, 22 Elm Street, Concord, Mass.

For the afternoon, there will be a tour of Concord conducted by members of the local Thoreau group.

The evening session will include an illustrated lecture on "Thoreau and Mushrooms" by W. Stephen Thomas, director of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, and another of the "Sounds of Thoreau's Journal" tape-recordings compiled by Edwin Way Teale, Roland Robbins, and David Dean.

THE 1964 ANNUAL ELECTION

The nominating committee (Robert Wild, chairman; Norman Dodge, and Joseph Ishill) presents the following slate of officers for election at the annual meeting:

For president, Roland Robbins
For president-elect, Mrs. Herbert Hosmer
For vice-president, Robert Needham
For secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding
For the executive committee for three years, Mrs. Edmund Fenn and Robert Needham.

A VOLUME FROM THOREAU'S LIBRARY, by Ralph H. Orth

After many years, what appears to be a volume from Thoreau's personal library has shown up in the possession of Professor Betty Bandel of the Department of English of the University of Vermont. It is Thomas Carlyle's Life of Friedrich Schiller, New York (George Dearborn & Co.), 1837, listed by Thoreau himself as "Life of Schiller. By Carlyle. New York. 1 v." but further identified in Walter Harding's Thoreau's Library (Charlottesville, Va.), 1957.

Apparent proof of its possession by Thoreau is the inscription on the flyleaf, not in Thoreau's handwriting:

Henry D. Thoreau
from L. W. —
Jan. 1, 1841 —

The identity of L. W. remains undiscovered, despite a check of the journals and letters, and the principal biographies of Thoreau. Indeed, the initials may not be L. W. at all, but I. W. — if so, possibly those of Isaiah T. Williams, the Buffalo law student who became Thoreau's "disciple" in 1841 (Correspondence, 1958, p. 43). Whether the month is actually "Jan." and not "Jun." adds a further note of difficulty to the transcription.

The path of the volume from Concord to Vermont is uncertain. Professor Bandel received it as a gift from the Reverend Robert Snelling, formerly pastor of the Essex Junction Congregational Church, and now pastor of the Community Church of Warren, Arizona. In a letter on October 17, 1963, Mr. Snelling writes:

> I believe this volume came to me from my father's library. The closest I can bring the volume to Walden Pond would be Newton Center Theological School (Boston), where my father studied during the 90's. He may have obtained this volume during his years there, but I do not know this to be true.

The volume itself is only in fair physical condition; the front cover and the binding on the spine are almost completely detached. There are no annotations. The first two stanzas of Wordsworth's poem beginning "So fair, so sweet, withal so sensitive," in a handwriting not Thoreau's, appear on a cut-down sheet of letter paper inserted in the volume.

Professor Bandel has stated that she intends to give the volume to the library of the University of Vermont.

University of Vermont

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . WH

Adams, Thomas Boylston. ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO YEARS JOURNEY TOWARD CONCORD. New York: Pierpont Morgan Library, 1962. Unpaged. "An address delivered before the fellows of the Pierpont Morgan Library, April 15, 1962. 200 copies printed."

AMERICAN REVIEW (Delhi). THOREAU AND INDIA. New Delhi: United States Information Service, 1962. 41pp.

Baym, Nina Zippin. THE PARADOXICAL HERO IN THOREAU'S WRITINGS. Unpublished Harvard University thesis, 1963.

Cameron, Kenneth W. "Anti-Slavery Song Books in Thoreau's Library." EMERSON SOC. QUAR., XXXVI (1964), 52-121.

_____. "Manuscript Pages from Thoreau's 'Night

and Moonlight," ESQ, XXXV (1964), 82-84.

_____. "Thoreau Manuscripts--Ungathered and Migrant." ESQ, XXXV (1964), 84-86.

_____. THOREAU'S LITERARY NOTEBOOK IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. Hartford: Transcendental Books, 1964, 375pp. $20. A facsimile reproduction.

Cardenas, Eduardo. "Thoreau." in BIOGRAFIAS BREVES. Hanover, Pa.: Libros de America, 1963, p. 819. A brief biography.

Drucker, D.B. LE JOUR SE LEVE. Avignon, France: Aubanel Editeur, 1955. pp. 140-141, favorable comment on Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience."

Eiseley, Loren. FRANCIS BACON AND THE MODERN DILEMMA. Lincoln: University of Neb., 1963. Contains a lengthy commentary on Thoreau's MAINE WOODS.

Fasel, Ida. "Emily Dickinson's Walden." IOWA ENGLISH YEARBOOK, VII (Fall, 1962), 22-28. Thoreau's influence on E.D.

Gottscho, Samuel. "Thoreau y las flores del campo." CENIT, Nov. 1962, pp. 3891-4. "Thoreau and Wild Flowers" trans. into Spanish by V. Munoz.

Gozzi, Raymond. "The Meaning of the 'Complemental Verses' in WALDEN," EMERSON SOC. QUAR., XXXV (1964), 79-82.

Hagenbach, Allen W. HUT MOOD (THOREAU TAUNTS "MONEY-CHANGER"). Allentown, Pa.: Pub. by the author, 1964. 26pp. An unusual little pamphlet commenting on life today seen through the eyes of a Thoreauvian.

Harding, Walter. "Thoreau at Walden." HARVARD ALUMNI BULLETIN, LXVI (March 21, 1964), 468-473. A chapter from the forthcoming biography.

Harvey, Arthur. THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. Raymond, N.H.: Mimeo. by the author, 1961. 28pp. Much on T's "Civil Disobedience."

HERALD OF PROGRESS. "Personal Items." III (May 24, 1862). A hitharto unnoticed news item on Thoreau's death, in a Spiritualist newspaper.

Higashiyama, Masayoshi. "Thoreau: A Japanese View," ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE (Kwansei Gakuin University), VII (Oct. 1962), 76-83).

Hyman, Stanley Edgar. "Henry Thoreau in Our Time" and "Henry Thoreau Once More." in THE PROMISED END. Cleveland: World, 1963. pp.23-35, 39-48.

Jacobson, Arthur C. "Tuberculosis and the Creative Mind." MEDICAL LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL JOURNAL, V (Dec. 1907), 225-230. Includes commentary on influence of tuberculosis on Thoreau.

Kasegawa, Koh. "An Interpretation of Thoreau's 'Civil Disobedience,'" AOYAMA JOURNAL OF GENERAL EDUCATION, IV (Nov. 1963), 1-19. A paragraph by paragraph analysis of the essay.

_____. "Thoreau and the Bhagavad-Gita." THOUGHTS CURRENT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, (Japan), XXXVI (Dec. 1963), 43-61.

_____. "Thoreau's WALDEN: A Nature-Myth." STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE (Englist Literary Society of Japan), XXXIX (Nov. 1963), 213-240.

Kopp, Charles C. THE MYSTICISM OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Penn State University, 1963. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation.

Langton, Jane. THE TRANSCENDENTAL MURDER. New York: Harper & Row, 1964, 248pp. $3.95. An amusing murder mystery, set in contemporary Concord, which involves such skullduggery as unearthing a love-affair between Emily Dickinson and Thoreau, and murdering someone by dropping a bust of Louisa May Alcott on her head, The secretary of the Thoreau Society is one of the central characters!

_____. The Same. Review. CONCORD JOURNAL. Feb. 20, 1964.

More, Paul Elmer. "A Hermit's Notes on Thoreau" and "Thoreau's Journal." in SHELBURNE ESSAYS ON AMERICAN LITERATURE. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1963. pp. 199-212, 213-229. Two important essays of half a century ago on Thoreau, now readily available in an inexpensive paperback ($2.45).

Porte, Joel Miles. EMERSON AND THOREAU: TRANSCENDENTALISM IN CONFLICT. Cambridge: Harvard Harvard, 1962. Unpublished thesis.

Schwaber. Paul. "Thoreau's Development in WALDEN." CRITICISM, V (Winter, 1963), 64-77.

"Tell me again. What was it you liked about 'Walden'?"

Drawing by Saxon. c 1963 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc. October 5, 1963.

Stanton, Will. "The Friends of Sammy." McCALL'S, January, 1964, pp. 73, 110-111. A short story with a Thoreau devotee as one of the characters.

Thoreau, Henry David. COLLECTED POEMS. Edited by Carl Bode. New enlarged edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1964. 413pp. $6.95. In 1943 Bode edited the first collected edition of T's poems--and incidentally the first variorum edition of any American poet. For years now it has been out of print and commanding a real premium on the rare book market. Now it has been reprinted from the same plates with thirteen additional poems that have since come to light appended. It is good to have T's poetry thus readily available once more in an edition that is both thoroughly annotated and includes all the variants. But it is unfortunate that the exigencies of publishing necessitated using the old plates thus perpetuating in the T canon two poems he did not write (tho a note in the back points out this error) and the misreading of several lines in other poems.

_____. JOURNAL (Dover edition). Review. EMERSON SOC. QUART., XXXVII (1964), 92.

Tryon, W.S. PARNASSUS CORNER: A LIFE OF JAMES T. FIELDS PUBLISHER TO THE VICTORIANS. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1963. 445pp. Includes some new information on Thoreau's relations with his publishers.

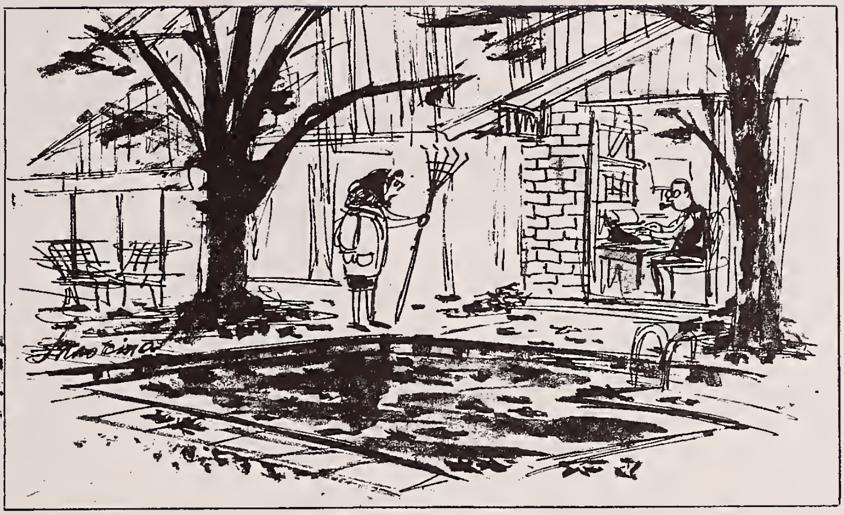
Weaver, Richard M. "Two Types of American Individualism." MODERN AGE, VII (Spring, 1963), 119-134. A contrast of Thoreau and John Randolph of Roanoke.

Williams, Paul O. "Emerson Guided: Walks with Thoreau and Channing." EMERSON SOC. QUAR., XXXV (1964), 66-68.

ANOTHER FORGOTTEN OBITUARY FOR THOREAU. . . WH

THE NATIONAL ALMANAC FOR 1863 (Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1863, p. 640) prints the following hitherto unnoticed obituary of Thoreau among its "American Obituaries--1862":

THOREAU, DAVID HENRY, died in Concord, Mass., May 6. He was born in that town, July 12, 1817, graduated at Harvard College in 1837, taught school for three years altogether, was a member of the family of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and, after giving up teaching, supported himself by manual labor as a farmer, pencil-maker, painter, surveyor, and carpenter. He made frequent pedestrian excursions to the woods and mountains of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, &c., lived for more than two years in a solitary hut constructed by himself in the woods near Concord, acquired considerable fame as an eccentric philosopher, and was the author of two remarkable works—"A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers" (1849), and "Walden: or, Life in the Woods" (1854), and some posthumous works since published. He was never married.



"Your Walden Pond needs cleaning out."

c 1963 The New York Times Company. Reprinted by permission from the issue of Nov. 17, 1963

DR. HOWARD ZAHNISER, 1906-1964

It is our sad duty to record the death of Dr. Howard Zahniser, President of the Thoreau Society in 1956-1957, long-time member of the Thoreau Society executive committee, and one of the most active members of the society. Dr. Zahniser died in his sleep at his home in Hyattsville, Md., on May 6, 1964. Since 1945 he had been executive secretary of the Wilderness Society and in the words of Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, the "most dedicated and faithful advocate of the country's leading conservationists." His friendliness, his enthusiasm, his warm smile, and his indefagitable energy made him one of the most beloved members of our society.

BACK PUBLICATIONS . . . .

The following back publications of the Thoreau Society are available from the secretary: Reprint of Bulletins 1-9, 50¢; Bulletins 12-15, 18, 21-66, 69-70, 72-83, 85, 86, 50¢ each; Booklets 3, 5, 8, 10, 14, 15, 50¢ each; Booklets 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 19, $1.00 each. Note that a number of bulletins which were once out of print are now back in print once more.

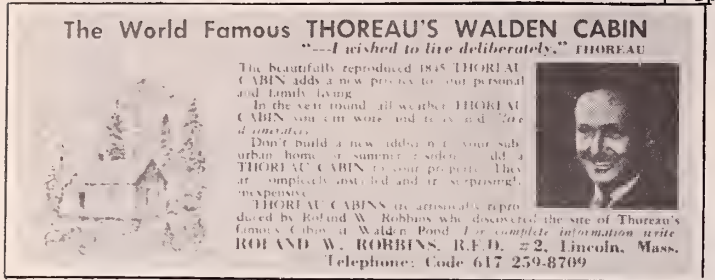
NOTES AND QUERIES . . . .

The "girlie" magazine Nugget, VIII (Nov. 1963) offers a new method of selling Walden. They suggest a book jacket showing a man about to embrace a nude woman and blurb "He called himself a 'Transcendentalist,' but he was all man, guys, like you and me. . . He tried to go two years without a woman--but could he?. . . Could you?"

The "Tom Swifty" craze has hit the Thoreau fans: Said Emerson to Thoreau in jail, "Don't you feel Walled-in?"

A friend in a mid-Western college swears that this happened: One of the football stars dropped out of his American literature class half way through the semester and later greeted him on the campus with, "Say, that book by Thoreau we were reading when I dropped out was exciting. Tell me, did Walden die in the end?"

Thoreau Society President-elect Roland Robbins now manufactures full-sized reproductions of Thoreau's cabin. Here is one of his advertisements:



Edwin Way Teale points out to us that in 1865 John Burroughs wrote Myron Benton: "I am reading /Thoreau's/ Cape Cod betimes. . . . How so much juice can be extracted from sand is a mystery." (Clara Barrus, The Life and Letters of John Burroughs, I, 103).

Mr. Raymond P. Tripp, Jr., of Toronto, Ontario, has kindly presented to the Thoreau Society Archives in the Concord Free Public Library a copy of his University of Toronto master's thesis Communication and the Unity of WALDEN: A Thematic and Structural Study (1963).

Mrs. Michael J. Matera of Port Washington, N.Y. has donated a copy of Joseph Wood Krutch's HENRY DAVID THOREAU to the White House Library in the name of the Thoreau Society. Mrs. Matera's grandfather was a first cousin of Thoreau's mother. Prof. Benjamin Gronewold of Buffalo, N.Y.; Ira Hoover of Wilmington, Del.; and Paul Oehser of Washington, D.C. all also volunteered copies of the Krutch book. We now lack only the Carl and Margaret Rollins' edition of Thoreau's ON THE DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (New Haven, 1928) for the White House Library. Can anyone help us locate a copy of that?

After many years of dormancy, the Concord Thoreau Discussion Group has revived with a bang and has been holding regular monthly meetings this spring. People in the area who are interested in attending should get in touch with Mrs. Edmund Fenn, Alcott Road, Concord.

In answer to our query in the winter bulletin, August Derleth (Sauk City, Wisc.) suggests that Thoreau's plum cake could have been a bread with plums inserted, rather than a cake, and says that he is familiar with both pear bread and prune bread in Wisconsin. And that reminds us of the oft-repeated assertion that Thoreau was the inventor of raisin bread. Can anyone prove—or disprove that assertion?

I am indebted to the following for information used in this bulletin: H.Adel, T.Bailey, M.Bodfish, M.Campbell, L.Digby, R.Ganley, S.Hosmer, R.Hull, K. Kasegawa, A.Kovar, L.Kleinfeld, D.Kamen-Kaye, A. Lownes, R.Meeker, R.Machemer, V.Munoz, M.Moss, L. Maynard, E.Phillips, G.Rohman, R.Schaedle, E.Teale, R.Wheeler, J.Wyllie, and H.Wiggins. Please keep the secretary informed of new Thoreau items.

The cost of printing this bulletin was paid for in part by the life memberships of Mrs. Notburga B. Lewittes of Fishkill, New York, and Prof. Alex Kern of Iowa City, Iowa.

A SOURCE FOR A WALDEN ANECDOTE . . . . WH

In the final chapter of WALDEN, Thoreau speaks of:

> We read that the traveller asked the boy if the swamp before him had a hard bottom. The boy replied that it had. But presently the traveller's horse sank in up to the girths, and he observed to the boy, "I thought you said that this bog had a hard bottom." "So it has," answered the latter, "but you have not got half way to it yet."

It is interesting to note therefore that the following anecdote appears in the local Concord YEOMAN'S GAZETTE for November 22, 1828 (when Thoreau was only eleven years old) and is undoubtedly the direct source of his WALDEN remark:

> A young fellow, riding down a steep hill, and doubting the foot of it was boggish, called out to a clown that was ditching, and asked if it was hard at the bottom?--"Aye," answered the countryman, "it is hard enough at the bottom I'll warrant you." But in a half dozen steps, the horse sunk up to the saddle skirts, which made the young gallant whip, spur, curse and swear /sic/. "Why thou lying rascal? /sic/" said he to the clown, "didst thou not tell me it was hard at the bottom?" "Aye," replied the other, "but you are not half way to the bottom yet."

A NEW SOPHIA THOREAU LETTER . . . . WH

President Evald B. Lawson of Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, calls our attention to the following manuscript letter in his possession. It was written by Thoreau's sister four days before his death and invites Edmund Hosmer to spend the night sitting up with Thoreau. Hosmer, incidentally, at Thoreau's own request, spent the last night of Thoreau's life at his side, and only a few hours before he passed away, Thoreau requested his sister to give Hosmer a copy of one of his books:

> Friday May 2nd,
>
> My dear Miss Hosmer,
>
> We remember your fathers kind offer to assist us in our affliction, and it will be very agreeable to us all if he can be with us tonight, please ask him if it is convenient. My dear brother has failed very much since your father last saw him.
>
> Yours truly,
>
> S. E. Thoreau.

Charles Tweedy of West Somerville, Mass., has pointed out to us that most editions of Thoreau's "Life without Principle" make two serious reprints. In the paragraph beginning "The rush to California . . . "many print "immortality" for immorality" and "muck-rate" for "muck-rake," thus making nonsense of the paragraph.

Ely Stock is currently working on a doctoral dissertation at Brown University in American Civilization on "The Use of the Bible in the Work of Hawthorne, Melville, Pow, Emerson, Thoreau & Whitman."

On December 2, 1963, Louis E. Hoffman, Dean of Instruction at Los Angeles Pierce College, conducted an institute on "The Mythic in Walden."